

THE
Bloomfield Record
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S. MORRIS HULIN, Proprietor
Office 29 Broad Street.

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The Church and the Poor.

An article on the first page of this issue tells of a newly-devised charity scheme now being tried in large cities to reach men "whom no church attraction can induce to enter a place of worship." The plan is to furnish a counter-attraction by which men can be induced to give up the social advantages of the saloon and enjoy the same with restricted liberties and viciss in a place where religion is at least an after-consideration.

This seems to be philanthropic, but it certainly is not the teaching of Jesus Christ or the practice of his teachings that keep workmen from accepting the social advantages of the church. The church cannot attract them, because it preaches justice, fraternity and happiness for the next world, but refuses, or is not permitted, to teach and practice Social Democracy for this world. Social order for heaven is orthodox, but for the earth it is rank heresy, according to the prevailing church standard. When anybody quotes the Founder of Christianity as authority for a better order of social conditions, the plutocratic element in the church pronounces it anarchistic.

This new movement for reaching the masses by ignoring Jesus Christ, though anonymously supported by church workers, may be regarded as essentially anti-Christian. I believe there is ninety-nine per cent of plutocracy's policy and orthodoxy infidelity to less than one per cent of undressed Christianity in a scheme that employs a salaried manager as the only person known in connection with the venture.

The assumption that "given the right man to have charge of it, many 'churchmen all over the country are coming to believe that such an institution is the best that has been devised for reaching the very poorest of men," is assuming that a great many churchmen are either schemers against their fellow men or are not well-informed. Those who see and note the signs of the times will discern in this movement involving the church a deep political significance. The votes of these "poorest of men" are being looked after, in the interest of plutocracy. The men are to be impeded for future use as voters much in the same way as fishermen impound sea-food for use when wanted. By this shrewd plan many thousands of "fishers" might be made available for whichever political party plutocracy deems shall for the time be most expedient to run the government, and through favored managers and bosses, distribute the spoils. All the corruption and injustice this country suffers under can be traced to two great parties, given each their opportunity to tax and fleece the people under forms of law.

Another article, condensed from The Coming Nation, published at Ruskin, Tenn., is well worth reading in this connection. The "Man without a soul" simply paraphrases, "Ye cannot serve God and Mammon" when he says: "You must either go with Royalty and be a slave or go with Socialism and be a free man." I appeal to Christian workers to signify where they stand at this time on the question of Social Democracy. A goodly number of American thinkers and writers are on record as "Christian Socialists," but there ought to be many more, especially clergymen, refusing to bow the knee to Baal and ready to declare plainly in this crisis, as Canon Kingsley did in England fifty years ago, in the midst of the Chartist agitation: "The purpose for which God sends a Christian priest into Christianity is to preach liberty, equality and fraternity in the fullest, deepest, widest, simplest meanings of these great words."

There was then good seed sown by a Socialist who had the courage of his convictions of Christianity without attempting to conceal it from anybody. "Parson Lot" and his agitation of the social question; with that of other English writers, preachers and philanthropists, Owen, Ruskin, Maurice and a host of them, have made England to-day the world's "cradle of Liberty," while America has been steadfastly becoming less and less the home of the free, more and more the place of the serf and the slave, with only the shadow of liberty, (under a boss-controlled ballot) remaining.

Chief of Police J. Howard Hardesty received congratulations from the Elizabeth, Brooklyn and Newark police departments in regard to the capture of the sneak thief given him as "George Carter" of Philadelphia, Pa., who was captured after a lively chase as the Record was going to press Friday afternoon, while engaged in packing up goods belonging to Thomas Cogan, residing in the bank building. Before coming to Bloomfield he had robbed a house in Elizabeth and taken the goods to Philadelphia, where they were recovered on information furnished by the Bloomfield Police Department. The thief will be taken in charge by the Elizabeth department when his sentence expires in the Essex County Penitentiary. He will probably be sentenced by Judge Fort on Monday.

Director McGowan deserves credit for the manner in which he conducted the negotiations for the improvement of Franklin Avenue, which when completed will complete a chain of hard roads between Franklin and Bloomfield.

Mrs. Bennett-Francis will resume musical instruction on or about Sept. 6th. For terms and further particulars call or address 55 Race St.

Bloomfield N.J.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE.
A special meeting of the Township Committee was held on Monday night for the consideration of several important matters.

Plans for the new iron bridges over the Erie Railroad at Williamson Avenue were considered. Owing to the decided change of grade of the street the company will submit another plan to the Engineer.

Director Thomas McGowan was present and informed the Committee that Franklin Avenue, leading from Bloomfield to Franklin Township, by a recent act of the Legislature, could be improved by the property owners paying 10 per cent of the cost, the State 20 per cent and the County the remainder. The petition for the improvement has already been presented to the Essex County Board of Freeholders and will be acted upon at their next meeting. After the road is macadamized it becomes a county charge forever. The property owners had objected to the assessment of 10 per cent, claiming that they had been taxed for years to build hard roads in other parts of the township, and that the township should pay this assessment. Director McGowan was of the opinion that they were right. The work will cost between \$3000 and \$4000, macadamized 16 feet wide, and the owners or township will pay \$400. The road will be opened with a width of 60 feet.

There being a balance of about \$400 to the credit of the road construction account, Mr. Lawrence made a motion which was unanimously adopted:

Whereas a petition has been presented to the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Essex County, signed by the owners of a section of Franklin Avenue, asking for a reduction in the assessment of the property in the section of Franklin Avenue, in the township of Bloomfield, praying the said board to cause such road to be macadamized in the said section under the act of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey, entitled: "An act to provide for the permanent improvement of public roads in the State," which act was approved March 22, 1863. Therefore,

Be it Resolved, that this township agrees, in view of the peculiar benefits of macadamizing hard roads, that the said road or section thereof, shall be macadamized at the expense of the township, in proportion not to exceed ten per centum of the entire cost of said improvement.

An order was drawn for \$1,300 to pay D. V. Harrison for labor for sewer purposes across the Watsessing Lake property, and \$150 to pay the Commissioners.

A part of the \$300 voted for removing snow will be used for the purchase of four snow plows, to cost not more than \$40.50 each. The town will be laid out in four districts with a snow plough for each.

Mr. Fisher said that he had made a contract for filling in Washington Place at ten cents per yard, and this will be done it once.

Miss A. Shibley had called upon Mr. Lawrence in regard to the overflow of water on West Belleville Avenue, which forms a lake on her property. The gutter was ordered cleaned out and the sidewalk filled up.

In reply to a communication from the residents of Morton street asking that it be put to grade, Clerk Johnson was instructed to notify them that the funds for this work had been exhausted.

The complaint of L. Voorhees concerning the grade of sidewalk in front of his premises on Race street was referred to the Sidewalk Committee.

The Clerk read a petition from John E. Homan signed by residents of Broad Street, Belleville Avenue, Church and Elm Streets requesting the Committee to appoint him a special policeman to serve without pay on the above streets, giving him the authority to make arrests. On motion of Mr. Moore this was granted.

The Soho Park and Land Company were given permission to open Belleville Avenue east of Willets Street for the extension of the water main.

Mr. Moore informed the Committee that he had received a communication from the Glen Ridge Borough Street Lighting Committee, requesting a conference with the similar Committee of the Township to arrange for the lighting of the streets leading to and from the Township and the machinery of the assessing department.

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This question was referred to the Road Committee.

STATE TAXES.
Recommendation of the State Board of Taxation.

The recommendations made by the New Jersey State Board of Taxation in its annual report submitted to Governor Griggs last Thursday would, if carried into effect, make a radical change in the tax laws of the State. The board since its establishment seven years ago has striven gradually to bring about a more uniform tax system, and in the matter of leading the local assessors to a better understanding of their duties has succeeded admirably. There is one point however, where but partial success has attended the board's efforts. That in respect to the provision that property shall be assessed at its true value. It has been a universal practice of local assessors to assess property at a given percentage of its true value. If the assessors had agreed upon a given percentage no harm would have been done except to produce low valuations and a high tax rate.

The difficulty always has been that the assessors within a county made their assessments on a different percentage basis, with the result that an undue proportion of the county tax was made by those municipalities in which the percentage of valuation was the highest. The cities generally got the worst of this practice, as the township assessors constituted, in most if not all cases, a majority of the county board of assessors, and the efforts to have the township assessors bring their assessed valuations up to the same percentage of the true value as prevailed in the cities proved unavailing. The State Board of Taxation during the last two or three years has interfered several times to equalize the valuations, and now in order to do away with the possibility of any cause for complaint, the board insists that all taxable property shall be assessed at its true value, as provided for in the constitution, and it is recommended that the Legislature empower the board to remove any local assessors who wilfully violate this provision of the organic law of the State.

Another important recommendation made by the board, and one that is likely to meet with much opposition if an attempt embodying it, is that all taxable property shall be assessed at its true value, as provided for in the constitution, and it is recommended that the Legislature empower the board to remove any local assessors who wilfully violate this provision of the organic law of the State.

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A third recommendation is to prevent bank stock escaping taxation. The board favors either taxing the stock in the municipality where the bank is located, or compelling the bank officials to furnish the State Board of Taxation with the name and residence of each shareholder, so that they will not operate where the property is used for purposes of revenue, such property owned by a church and rented out, and cemeteries run for private gain.

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